

NORTH CAROLINA

Violent Death
Reporting System
Buncombe County 2004 – 2007

March 2010

North Carolina
Injury & Violence
PREVENTION Branch

Division of Public Health

Background and Acknowledgements

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded state-wide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January, 2004. This document summarizes findings from Buncombe County, North Carolina that occurred from 2004 to 2007.

A Statewide Annual Report for 2007 will be completed by summer of 2010. More information can be found at: www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm.

The task of locating, abstracting, entering, and evaluating the data that are used to create the NC-VDRS is challenging, time-consuming and difficult. The extent and quality of the data in this report are the direct result of the dedication of the NC-VDRS staff: Tammy Norwood, Program Manager, and Susan Autry and Pat Jones, Statistical Research Assistants.

Thanks to Sharon Schiro for the analysis and programming of the NC-VDRS data, and Becca Byrd for the formatting and updating of this report.

Three advisory groups provided assistance to us with this report. The leadership of these advisory groups formed the Board Leadership & Evaluation Team (BLET). Members of the BLET for 2007 were Tamera Coyne-Beasley, Kay Sanford, Phillip J. Cook, Sandra Martin, Steve Marshall, and Anna Waller.

We acknowledge the assistance and on-going support of the N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, as well as the many local law enforcement agencies throughout N.C. that have provided information to the NC-VDRS.

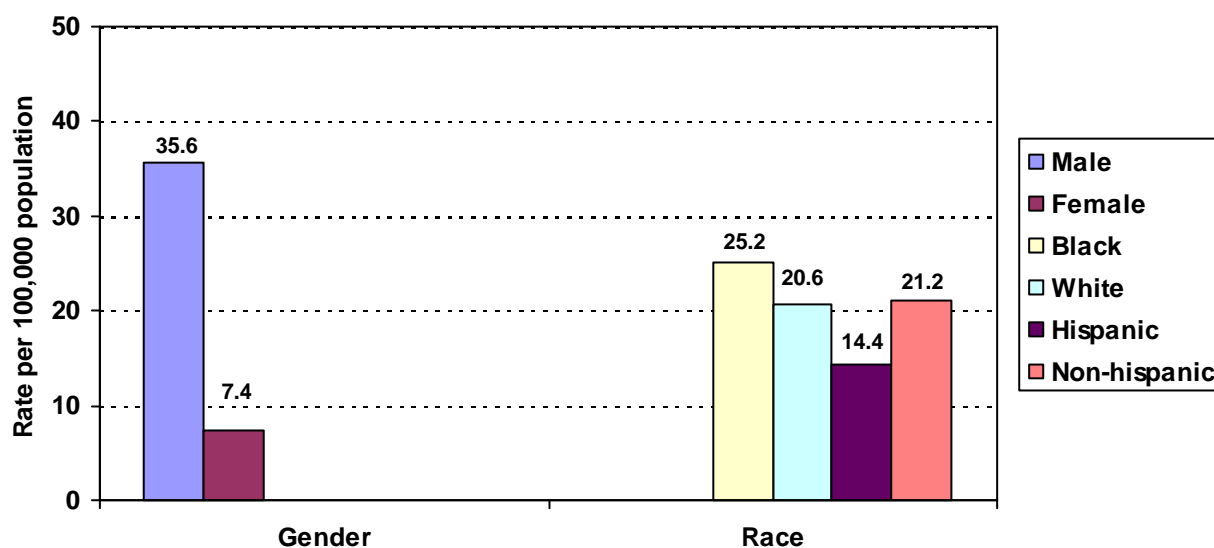
This report was supported in part by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U17CE423098-07 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SECTION I: OVERALL

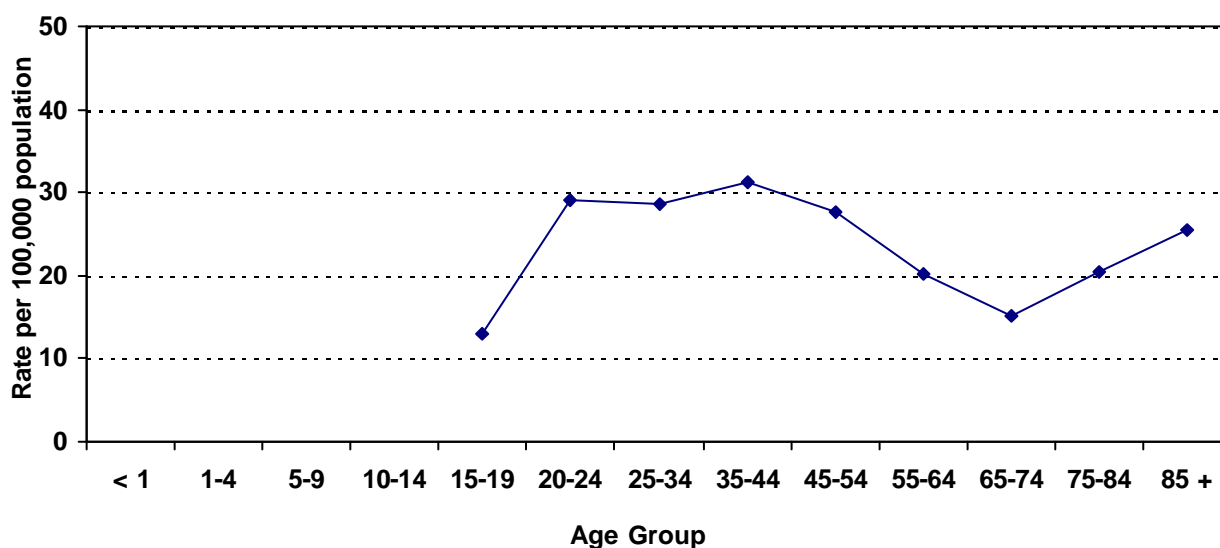
Table 1: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Violent Death Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	151	81.6	35.6	29.9 - 41.3
	Female	34	18.4	7.4	4.9 - 9.9
Race					
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Asian	3	1.6	*	*
	Black	17	9.2	25.2	13.2 - 37.2
	White	165	89.2	20.6	17.5 - 23.7
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	5	2.7	14.4	1.8 - 27.0
	Non-Hispanic	180	97.3	21.2	18.1 - 24.3
Age Group					
	< 1	3	1.6	*	*
	1 - 4	0	0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	3	1.6	*	*
	15 - 19	7	3.8	13.0	3.4 - 22.6
	20 - 24	16	8.6	29.1	14.9 - 43.3
	25 - 34	33	17.8	28.5	18.8 - 38.2
	35 - 44	39	21.1	31.2	21.4 - 41.0
	45 - 54	37	20.0	27.7	18.8 - 36.6
	55 - 64	22	11.9	20.3	11.8 - 28.8
	65 - 74	10	5.4	15.1	5.7 - 24.5
	75 - 84	10	5.4	20.5	7.8 - 33.2
	85 +	5	2.7	25.4	3.1 - 47.7
Total Deaths		185	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Overall Violent Death Rates by Gender and Race, Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007



Overall Violent Death Rates by Age, Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

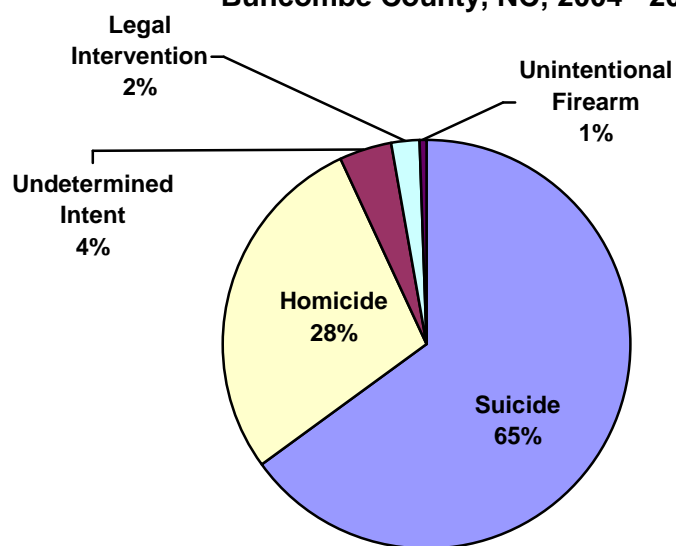


Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

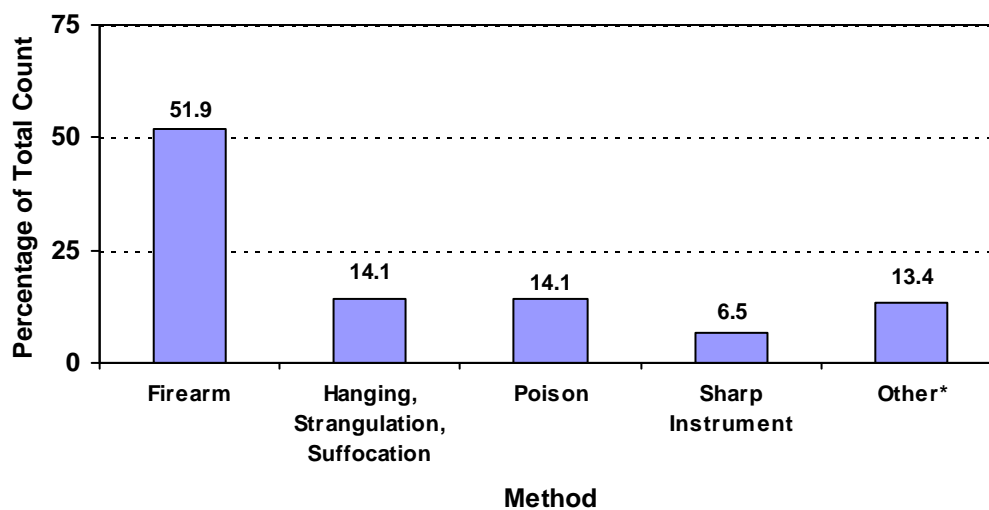
**Table 2: Manner and Method of Violent Death Victims in
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

		Number	%
Manner of Death			
	Suicide	120	64.9
	Homicide	52	28.1
	Undetermined Intent	8	4.3
	Legal Intervention	4	2.2
	Unintentional Firearm	1	0.5
Method			
	Firearm	96	51.9
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	26	14.1
	Poisoning	26	14.1
	Sharp Instrument	12	6.5
	Fall	7	3.8
	Blunt Instrument	6	3.2
	Unarmed Assault	3	1.6
	Violent Shaking	3	1.6
	Fire or Burns	2	1.1
	Unknown	2	1.1
	Drowning	1	0.5
	Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.5
Total Deaths		185	100

Manner of Violent Death, Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007



Method of Death for Overall Violent Deaths, Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007



* Other methods include: blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, falls, drowning, fires or burns, violent shaking, motor vehicles, other transport vehicles, intentional neglect and other unspecified methods.

Table 3: Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
Asian	3	2.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	1.6
Black	16	10.6	50.1	25.6 - 74.6	1	2.9	*	*	17	9.2
White	132	87.4	34.3	28.5 - 40.1	33	97.1	7.9	5.2 - 10.6	165	89.2
Total Deaths	151	100			34	100			185	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Violent Death Victims,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

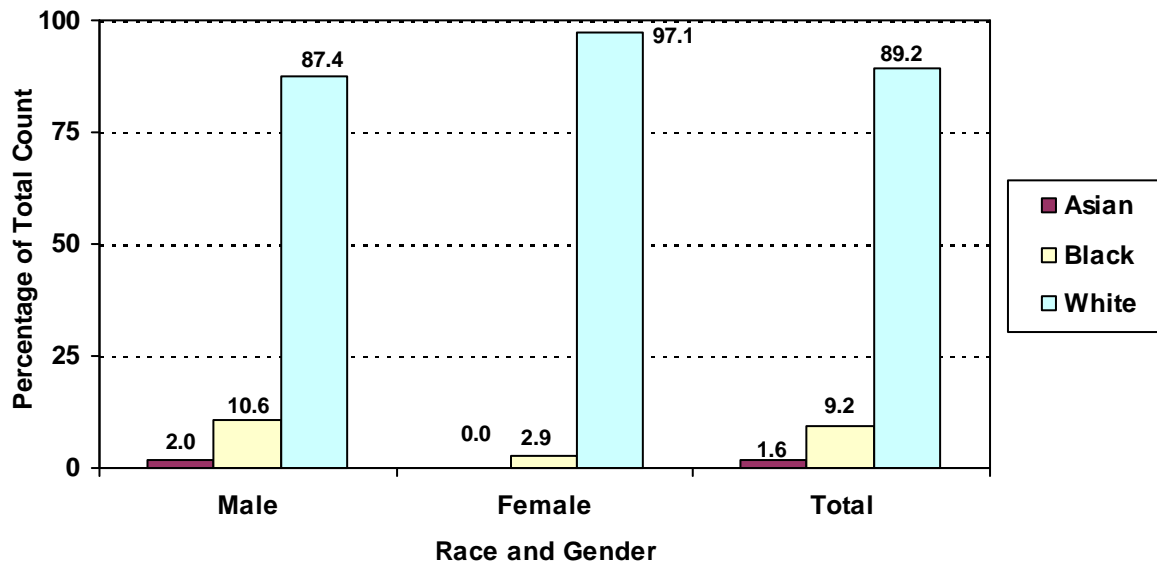
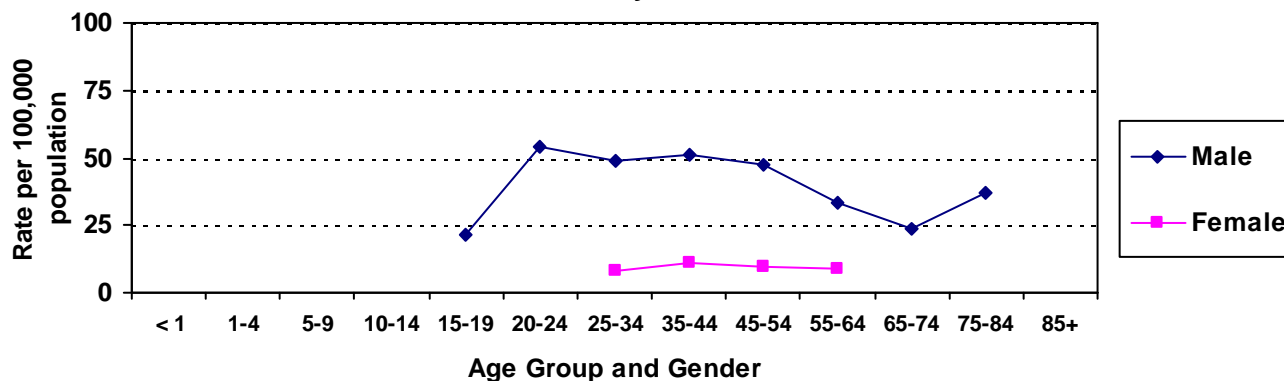


Table 4: Age Group by Gender of Violent Death Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	2	1.3	*	*	1	2.9	*	*	3	1.6
10 - 14	3	2.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	1.6
15 - 19	6	4.0	21.5	4.3 - 38.7	1	2.9	*	*	7	3.8
20 - 24	15	9.9	53.9	26.6 - 81.2	1	2.9	*	*	16	8.6
25 - 34	28	18.5	49.0	30.9 - 67.1	5	14.7	8.5	1.0 - 16	33	17.8
35 - 44	32	21.2	51.4	33.6 - 69.2	7	20.6	11.1	2.8 - 19.4	39	21.1
45 - 54	30	19.9	47.6	30.6 - 64.6	7	20.6	9.9	2.5 - 17.3	37	20.0
55 - 64	17	11.3	33.6	17.7 - 49.5	5	14.7	8.7	1.1 - 16.3	22	11.9
65 - 74	7	4.6	23.6	6.1 - 41.1	3	8.8	*	*	10	5.4
75 - 84	7	4.6	36.7	9.5 - 63.9	3	8.8	*	*	10	5.4
85 +	4	2.6	*	*	1	2.9	*	*	5	2.7
Total Deaths	151	100			34	100			185	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

Overall Violent Death Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims, Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

SECTION II: SUICIDE

Table 5: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Suicide Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	100	83.3	27.0	21.7 - 32.3
	Female	20	16.7	4.9	2.8 – 7.0
Race					
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Asian	1	0.8	*	*
	Black	4	3.3	*	*
	White	115	95.8	16.2	13.2 - 19.2
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	2	1.7	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	118	98.3	15.6	12.8 - 18.4
Age Group					
	10 - 14	2	1.7	*	*
	15 - 19	3	2.5	*	*
	20 - 24	8	6.7	14.5	4.4 - 24.6
	25 - 34	19	15.8	16.4	9.0 - 23.8
	35 - 44	28	23.3	22.4	14.1 - 30.7
	45 - 54	26	21.7	19.5	12.0 – 27.0
	55 - 64	16	13.3	14.8	7.6 – 22.0
	65 - 74	7	5.8	10.6	2.8 - 18.4
	75 - 84	6	5.0	12.3	2.5 - 22.1
	85 +	5	4.2	25.4	3.1 - 47.7
Total Deaths		120	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

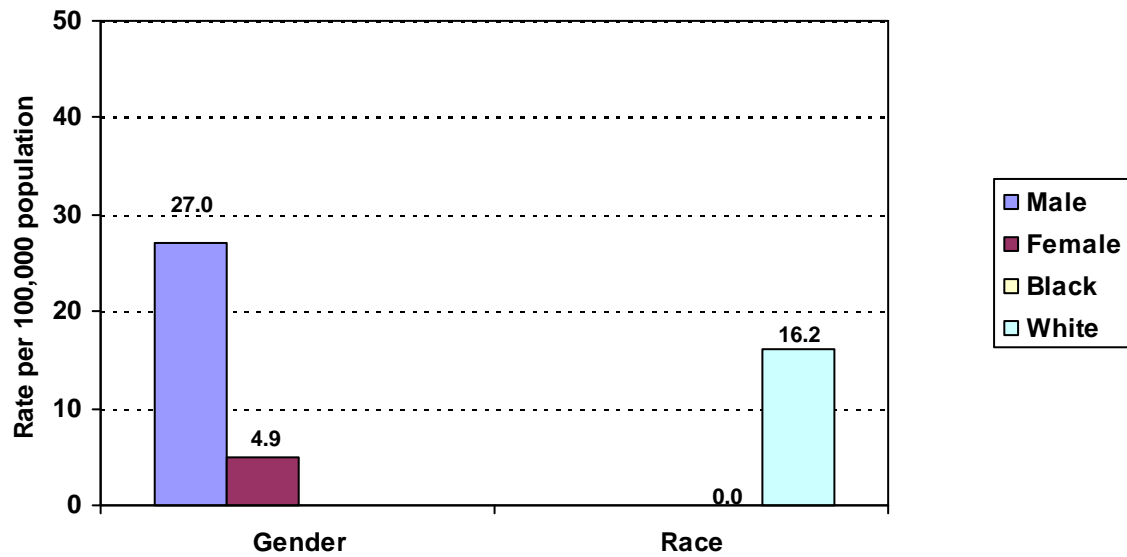
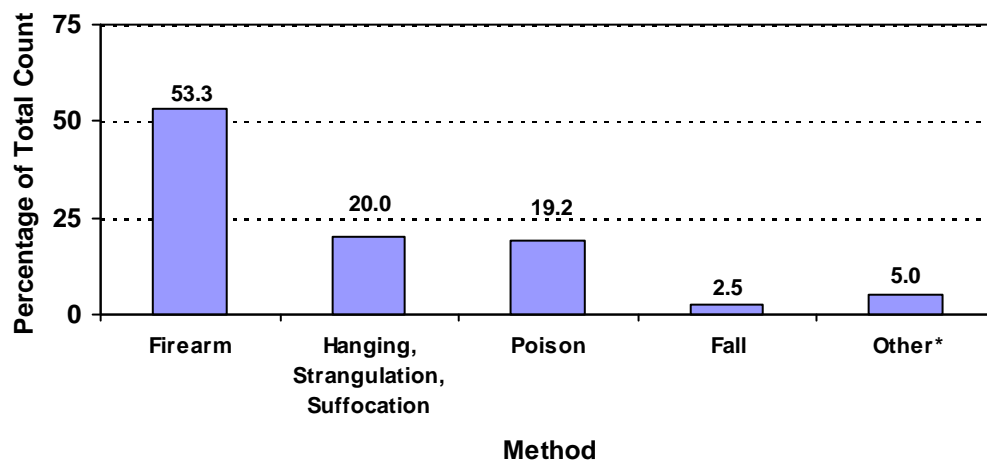


Table 6: Method of Death for Suicide Deaths in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Method			
	Firearm	64	53.3
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	24	20.0
	Poisoning	23	19.2
	Fall	3	2.5
	Sharp Instrument	3	2.5
	Drowning	1	0.8
	Fire or Burns	1	0.8
	Other Transport Vehicle	1	0.8
Total Deaths		120	100

**Method of Death for Suicide Deaths,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: sharp and blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicle, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 7: Race by Gender of Suicide Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
Asian	1	1.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	0.8
Black	4	4.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	4	3.3
White	95	95.0	28.1	22.4 - 33.8	20	100.0	5.4	3.0 - 7.8	115	95.8

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Suicide Victims,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

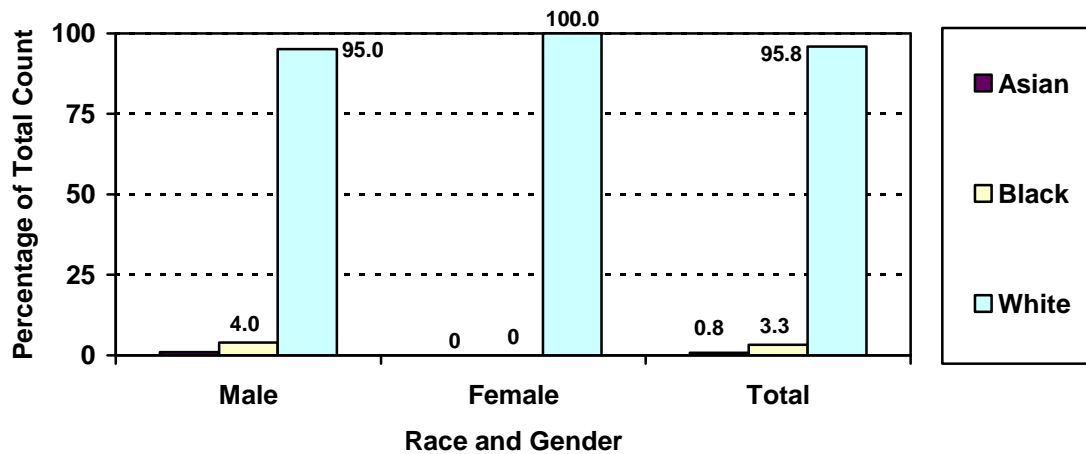
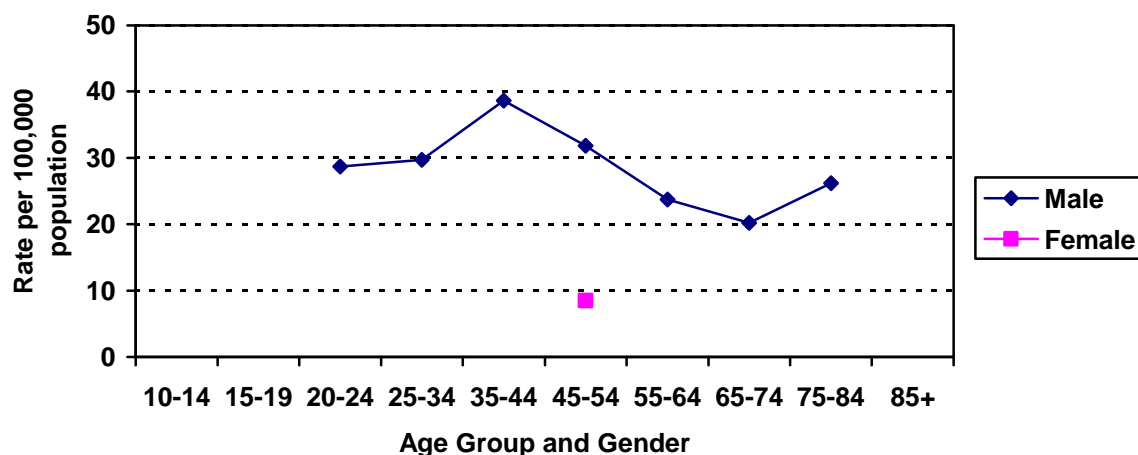


Table 8: Age Group by Gender of Suicide Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
10 - 14	2	2.0	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	1.7
15 - 19	2	2.0	*	*	1	5.0	*	*	3	2.5
20 - 24	8	8.0	28.7	8.8 - 48.6	0	0	*	*	8	6.7
25 - 34	17	17.0	29.7	15.6 - 43.8	2	10.0	*	*	19	15.8
35 - 44	24	24.0	38.6	23.2 - 54	4	20.0	*	*	28	23.3
45 - 54	20	20.0	31.8	17.9 - 45.7	6	30.0	8.5	1.7 - 15.3	26	21.7
55 - 64	12	12.0	23.7	10.3 - 37.1	4	20.0	*	*	16	13.3
65 - 74	6	6.0	20.2	4.0 - 36.4	1	5.0	*	*	7	5.8
75 - 84	5	5.0	26.2	3.2 - 49.2	1	5.0	*	*	6	5.0
85 +	4	4.0	*	*	1	5.0	*	*	5	4.2
Total Deaths	100	100			20	100			120	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Suicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



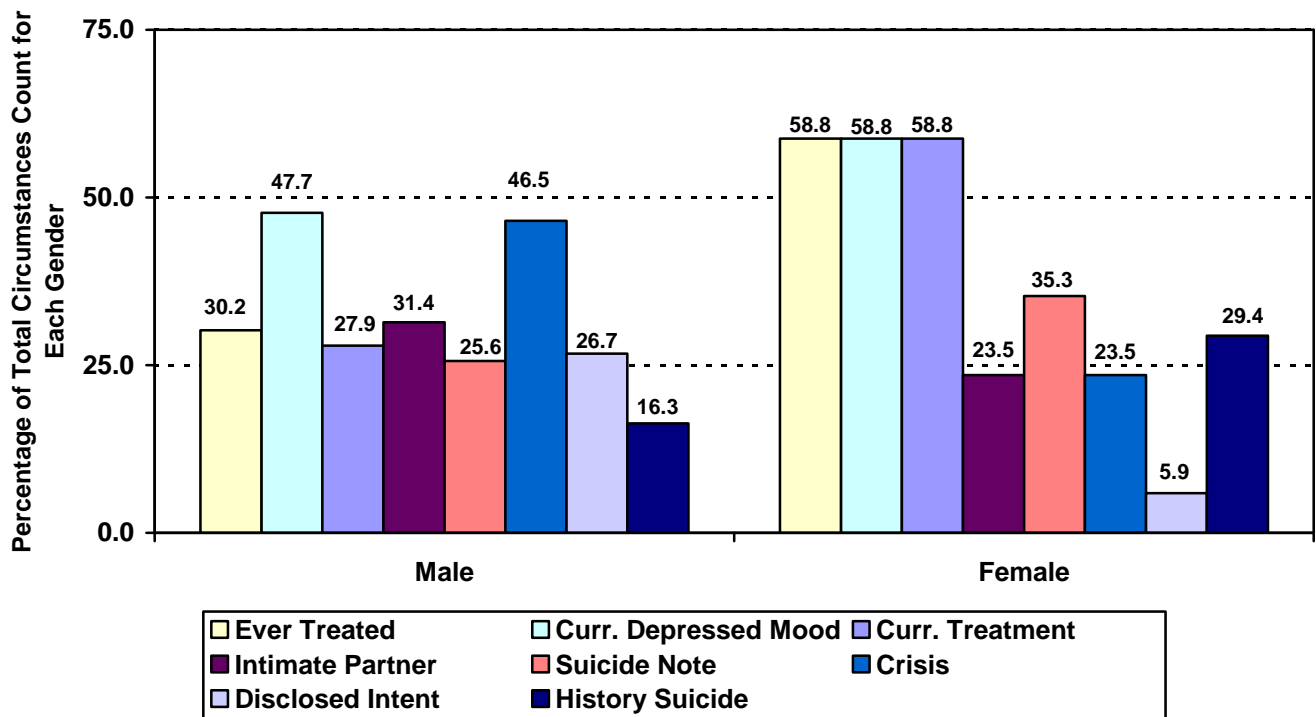
Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 9: Circumstances of Suicide Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Victim Circumstances						
Current depressed mood	41	47.7	10	58.8	51	49.5
Current treatment for mental illness	24	27.9	10	58.8	34	33.0
Ever treated for mental illness	26	30.2	10	58.8	36	35.0
Alcohol problem	19	22.1	2	11.8	21	20.4
Other substance problem	15	17.4	1	5.9	16	15.5
Left a suicide note	22	25.6	6	35.3	28	27.2
Disclosed intent to commit suicide	23	26.7	1	5.9	24	23.3
History of suicide attempts	14	16.3	5	29.4	19	18.4
Crisis in past two weeks	40	46.5	4	23.5	44	42.7
Physical health problem	13	15.1	4	23.5	17	16.5
Intimate partner problem	27	31.4	4	23.5	31	30.1
Other relationship problem	6	7.0	0	0	6	5.8
Job problem	3	3.5	0	0	3	2.9
School problem	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial problem	6	7.0	0	0	6	5.8
Suicide of family or friend in past 5 years	1	1.2	0	0	1	1.0
Other death of friend/ family	4	4.7	0	0	4	3.9
Recent criminal/ legal problem	5	5.8	0	0	5	4.9
Other legal problems	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	3	3.5	0	0	3	2.9
Victim of interpersonal violence in past month	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Circumstances are only available for 1,000 of the 1,085 suicide deaths where age was ≥ 10 . The denominator of the percentage is the total number of suicide victims for each gender category who had circumstance data available. Each suicide victim may have 0 to many circumstances.

Circumstances by Gender for Suicide Victims, Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007



* Note: Multiple options are available therefore such responses add up to more than 100%. This figure does not include all circumstances.

Table 10: Mental Illnesses Under Treatment at the Time of Suicide in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Mental Illness			
Depression/ Dysthymia	23	10	33
Bipolar Disorder	2	2	4
Schizophrenia	4	0	4
Other	2	1	3
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	1	0	1
ADD or Hyper-reactivity Disorder	1	0	1
Unknown	1	0	1

SECTION III: HOMICIDE

Table 11: Gender, Race, and Age Group of Homicide Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007					
		Number	%	Rate	CI
Gender					
	Male	42	80.8	9.9	6.9 - 12.9
	Female	10	19.2	2.2	0.9 - 3.5
Race					
	American Indian	0	0	*	*
	Asian	1	1.9	*	*
	Black	11	21.2	16.3	6.7 - 25.9
	White	40	76.9	5.0	3.5 - 6.5
Hispanic					
	Hispanic	3	5.8	*	*
	Non-Hispanic	49	94.2	5.8	4.2 - 7.4
Age Group					
	< 1	3	5.8	*	*
	1 - 4	0	0	*	*
	5 - 9	0	0	*	*
	10 - 14	1	1.9	*	*
	15 - 19	3	5.8	*	*
	20 - 24	8	15.4	14.5	4.4 - 24.6
	25 - 34	10	19.2	8.6	3.2 - 14.0
	35 - 44	9	17.3	7.2	2.5 - 11.9
	45 - 54	8	15.4	6.0	1.8 - 10.2
	55 - 64	5	9.6	4.6	0.6 - 8.6
	65 - 74	3	5.8	*	*
	75 - 84	2	3.8	*	*
	85 +	0	0	*	*
Total Deaths		52	100		

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Gender and Race,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

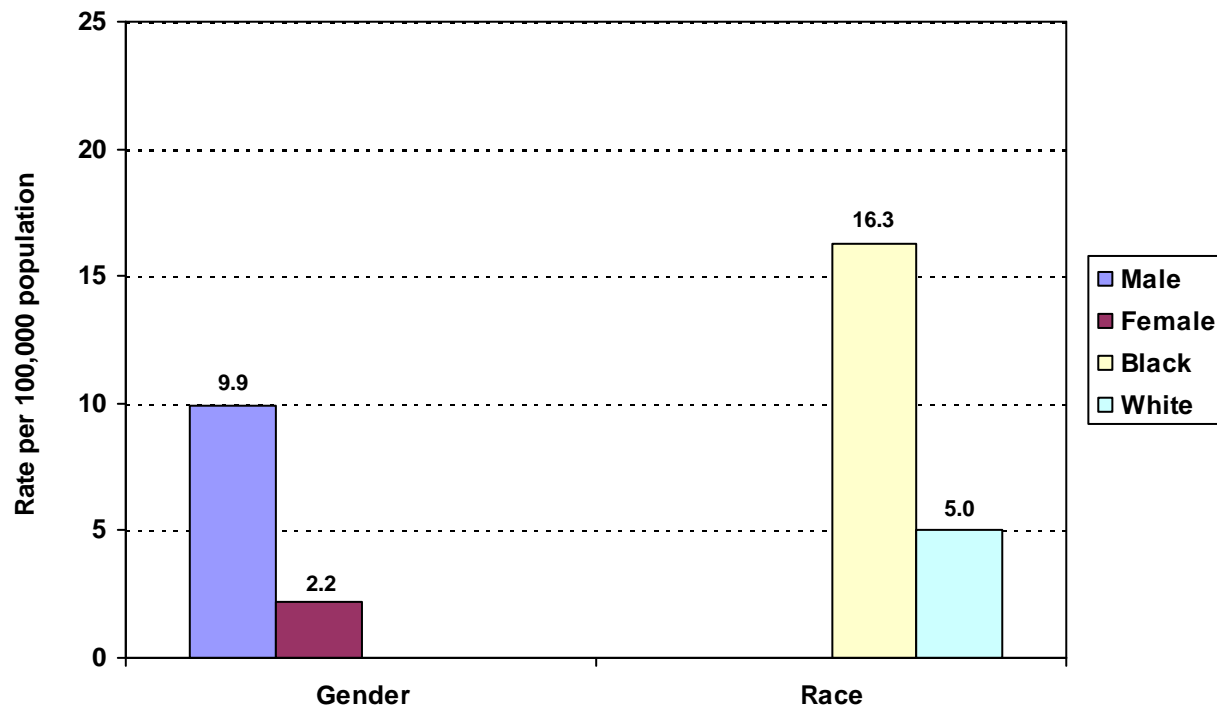
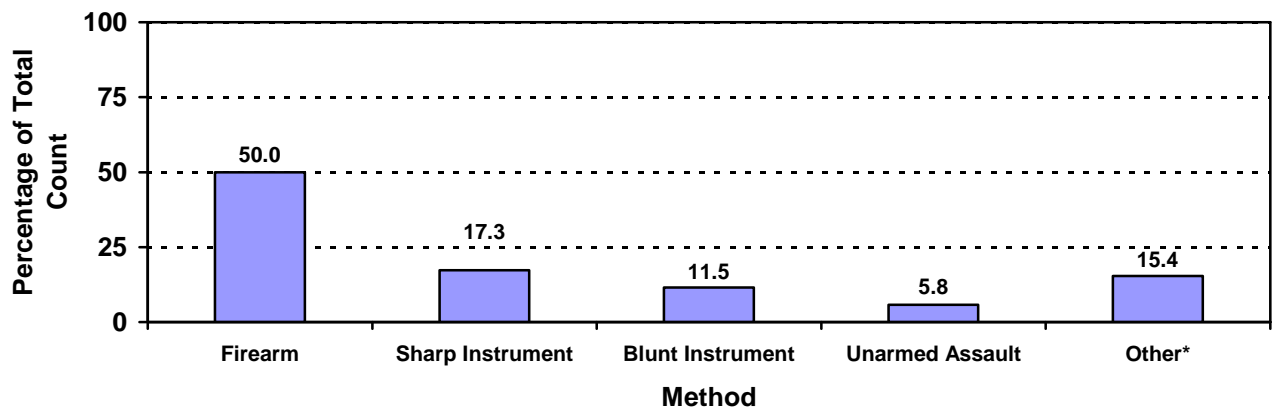


Table 12: Method of Death for Homicide Deaths in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Method		Number	%
	Firearm	26	50.0
	Sharp Instrument	9	17.3
	Blunt Instrument	6	11.5
	Unarmed Assault	3	5.8
	Violent Shaking	3	5.8
	Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	2	3.8
	Fall	1	1.9
	Fire or Burns	1	1.9
	Unknown	1	1.9
Total Deaths		52	100

**Method of Death for Homicide Deaths,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



* Other methods include: sharp and blunt instruments, unarmed assaults, fires or burns, drowning, motor vehicle, violent shaking, intentional neglect, and other unspecified methods.

Table 13: Race by Gender of Homicide Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Race										
Asian	1	2.4	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	1.9
Black	10	23.8	31.3	11.9 - 50.7	1	10.0	*	*	11	21.2
White	31	73.8	8.0	5.2 - 10.8	9	90.0	2.2	0.8 - 3.6	40	76.9

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Race by Gender of Homicide Victims,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**

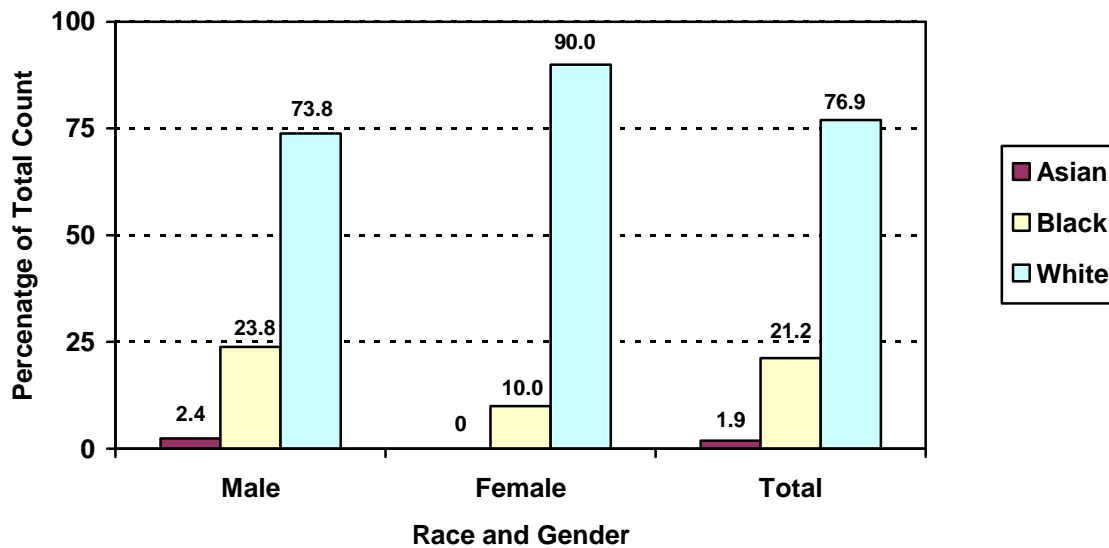
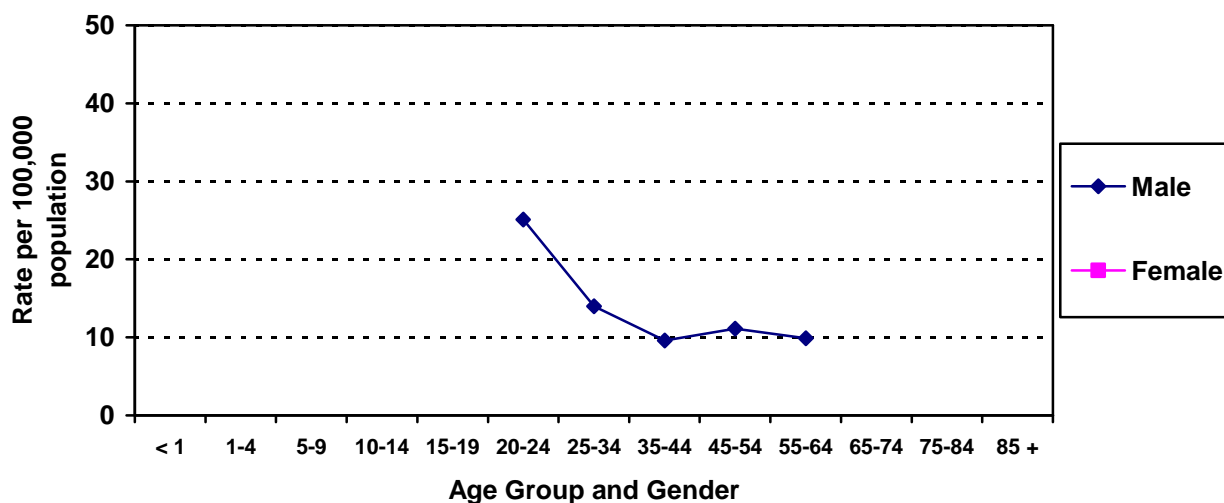


Table 14: Age Group by Gender of Homicide Victims in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

	Male				Female				Total	
	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%	Rate	CI	Number	%
Age Group										
< 1	2	4.8	*	*	1	10.0	*	*	3	5.8
10 - 14	1	2.4	*	*	0	0	*	*	1	1.9
15 - 19	3	7.1	*	*	0	0	*	*	3	5.8
20 - 24	7	16.7	25.1	6.5 - 43.7	1	10	*	*	8	15.4
25 - 34	8	19.0	14.0	4.3 - 23.7	2	20.0	*	*	10	19.2
35 - 44	6	14.3	9.6	1.9 - 17.3	3	30.0	*	*	9	17.3
45 - 54	7	16.7	11.1	2.9 - 19.3	1	10.0	*	*	8	15.4
55 - 64	5	11.9	9.9	1.3 - 18.5	0	0	*	*	5	9.6
65 - 74	1	2.4	*	*	2	20.0	*	*	3	5.8
75 - 84	2	4.8	*	*	0	0	*	*	2	3.8
Total Deaths	42	100			10	100			52	100

* The number of deaths was zero or too small to support the calculation of a rate.

**Homicide Rates by Age Group and Gender of Victims,
Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007**



Note: Some values are zero or not available due to low count so the lines appear "broken".

Table 15: Circumstances of Homicides in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
		Number	%
Event Circumstances			
	Other argument, abuse, or conflict	21	46.7
	Precipitated by another serious crime	14	31.1
	Drug involvement	13	28.9
	Intimate partner violence related	5	11.1
	Argument over money or property	2	4.4
	Jealousy (Lovers Triangle)	1	2.2
	Brawl (Mutual Physical Fight)	1	2.2
Victim Characteristics			
	Victim used a weapon	2	4.4
	Victim was a police officer on duty	1	2.2
	Intervener assisting a crime victim	1	2.2

*The denominator of the percentage is the total number of homicide victims who had circumstance data available. Each homicide victim may have anywhere from zero to many circumstances.

Table 16: Crimes Precipitating Homicides in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007			
	Male	Female	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Crime			
Drug Trade	7	0	7
Robbery	4	1	5
Burglary	2	0	2
Arson	2	0	2
Rape, Sexual Assault	0	1	1

Table 17: Type of Weapon by Manner of Death in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 - 2007

Weapon Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Firearm	64	53.3	26	50.0	1	100.0	4	100.0	1	12.5	96	51.9
Sharp Instrument	3	2.5	9	17.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	6.5
Blunt Instrument	0	0	6	11.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3.2
Poisoning	23	19.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	37.5	26	14.1
Hanging, Strangulation, Suffocation	24	20.0	2	3.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	14.1
Unarmed Assault	0	0	3	5.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.6
Fall	3	2.5	1	1.9	0	0	0	0	3	37.5	7	3.8
Fire or Burns	1	0.8	1	1.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.1
Violent Shaking	0	0	3	5.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.6
Total Deaths	120	100	52	100	1	100	4	100	8	100	185	100

Table 18: Type of Firearm by Manner of Death in Buncombe County, NC; 2004 – 2007
For Firearm Deaths Only

Firearm Type	Manner of Death										Total	
	Suicide		Homicide		Unintentional Firearm		Legal Intervention		Undetermined Intent			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Handgun	41	64.1	23	88.5	1	100.0	3	75.0	1	100.0	69	71.9
Rifle	5	7.8	1	3.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6.3
Shotgun	16	25.0	1	3.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17.7
Unknown Firearm Type	2	3.1	1	3.8	0	0	1	25.0	0	0	4	4.2
Total Deaths	64	100	26	100	1	100	4	100	1	100	96	100

GLOSSARY

Adult	Person was 18 years of age or older on date of death.
Child	Person was less than 18 years of age on date of death.
Legal intervention	Decedent was killed by a police officer or some other peace officer, including military police, acting in the line of duty. Includes legal executions.
Occurrent death	Death occurred in NC. Decedent may or may not have been a NC resident at the time of death.
Peace officer	Person with specified legal authority to use deadly force.
Rates	Calculated as count x 100,000/population.
Resident death	Victim was a NC resident at the time of death and the death occurred in NC. All deaths reported in this report are resident deaths.
Undetermined intent	A death resulting from the use of force or power against oneself or another person for which the evidence indicating the manner of death was not sufficient to determine intent.
Violent death	Intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. Deaths meeting this definition include suicides, homicides, and legal interventions.



State of North Carolina • Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Department of Health and Human Services
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary
Division of Public Health • Jeffrey P. Engel, State Health Director
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

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